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DJIA 40752.96 ▲ 83.60 0.21% | NASDAQ 17710.74 ▲ 1.5% | STOXX 600 527.60 ▲ 0.02% | 10-YR. TREAS. ▼ 14/32, yield 4.228% | OIL $59.24 ▲ $1.03 | GOLD $3,210.00 ▼ $95.00 | EURO $1.1292 | YEN 145.40

What's News

Business & Finance

◆ **Tesla's board started** a search for a chief executive to succeed Elon Musk at a time when sales and profit at the carmaker were rapidly deteriorating. **A1**

◆ **Apple said most of** its devices shipped to the U.S. in the June quarter will originate in India and Vietnam, a move to allay investor concerns about how tariffs would crimp profit. **A1**

◆ **Amazon.com reported** strong quarterly earnings that weren't affected by new tariffs on Chinese imports, but the looming duties clouded the company's outlook. **B1**

◆ **Strong earnings from** big tech firms helped to boost U.S. stocks, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow rising 0.6%, 1.5% and 0.2%, respectively. **B1**

◆ **U.S. initial jobless claims** rose last week, reaching their highest level since February but remaining broadly within a range that has held over the past year. **A2**

◆ **Kohl's fired** Chief Executive Ashley Buchanan after it found he instructed the retailer to enter into a "highly unusual" business deal involving a woman with whom he had a romantic relationship. **B1**

◆ **GM said it faces** $4 billion to $5 billion in tariff-related costs this year, which it aims to partially offset by reducing spending and increasing production in the U.S. **B1**

◆ **Citigroup hired** Trump's former trade chief, Robert Lighthizer, to advise the bank and its clients on how to navigate the global trade war. **A5**

◆ **Conagra Brands agreed** to sell Chef Boyardee to private-equity firm Brynwood Partners for $600 million. **B1**

World-Wide

◆ **Trump is replacing** his national security adviser roughly a month after Mike Waltz put a journalist on a group text chat in which advisers discussed a sensitive military operation. **A1**

◆ **The looming demise** of a tariff exemption on inexpensive Chinese goods is causing big e-commerce players to raise prices and threatening the business models of smaller online retailers. **A1**

◆ **Beijing-backed** social-media accounts say U.S. officials have reached out to Chinese counterparts to discuss trade as the world watches for any sign of tariff talks between the two sides. **A16**

◆ **A judge ruled that** Trump's use of the wartime Alien Enemies Act to detain and deport alleged members of a foreign gang is unlawful. **A3**

◆ **The Pentagon** inspector general expanded an investigation into Defense Secretary Hegseth's sharing of military plans to a second Signal chat that included his wife and brother. **A4**

◆ **The Army embarked** on an overhaul to shed outmoded weapons and equipment and provide each of its combat divisions with around 1,000 drones. **A4**

◆ **The Trump administration** directed $500 million to a project to make vaccines that protect against multiple strains of a virus at once, a goal sci-

At White House, an Executive Order and a Prayer

EVAN VUCCI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONGREGATION: President Trump is surrounded by religious leaders and supporters at a musical performance in the Rose Garden on Thursday for the National Day of Prayer. The president signed an executive order creating a religious liberty commission.

Tesla Board Opened Search For a CEO to Succeed Musk

About a month ago, with Tesla's stock sinking and some investors irritated about Elon Musk's White House focus, Tesla's board got serious about looking for Musk's successor.

By Emily Glazer, Becky Peterson and Dana Mattioli

Board members reached out to several executive search firms to work on a formal process for finding Tesla's next chief executive, according to people familiar with the discussions.

Tensions had been mounting at the company. Sales and profits were deteriorating rapidly. Musk was spending much of his time in Washington.

Around that time, Tesla's board met with Musk for an update. Board members told him he needed to spend more time on Tesla, according to people familiar with the meeting. And he needed to say so publicly.

Musk didn't push back.

Tesla has been on a losing streak in the months since Musk, its visionary chief executive, began spending much of his time helping President Trump slash federal spending. Last week, after the company said its first-quarter profit had plunged 71%, Musk told investors he would soon pivot back to his job at Tesla.

"Starting next month," he said on a conference call about earnings, "I'll be allocating far more of my time to Tesla."

The board narrowed its focus to a major search firm, according to the people familiar with the discussions. The current status of the succession planning couldn't be determined. It is also unclear if Musk, himself a Tesla board member, was aware of the effort, or if his pledge to spend more time at Tesla has affected succession planning. Musk didn't respond to requests for comment.

Tesla didn't provide a statement before a version of this article was published online. Hours after publication, Tesla issued a denial on X. Musk also criticized the article in a post on X.

"The CEO of Tesla is Elon

Please turn to page A8

President Ousts National Security Adviser

Waltz, to be replaced by Rubio for now, gets Trump's nod for U.N. ambassador

WASHINGTON—President Trump is replacing national security adviser Mike Waltz about a month after he put a journalist on a group text chat in which advisers discussed a sensitive military operation, making him the first top official to lose his job in Trump's second term.

By Josh Dawsey, Alexander Ward and Meridith McGraw

Trump wrote on social media on Thursday that Waltz would be nominated as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Secretary of State Marco Rubio will step in as interim national security adviser, Trump wrote, and he will continue to also serve in his current role.

"From his time in uniform on the battlefield, in Congress and, as my National Security Advisor, Mike Waltz has worked hard to put our Nation's Interests first. I know he will do the same in his new role," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

Waltz lost favor with the president and senior advisers after the Atlantic revealed that he added a journalist to a chat on the nongovernment messaging app Signal, a crisis that dominated headlines and became one of the first major embarrassments for the administration. Trump declined to fire Waltz immediately, but privately expressed his frus-

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Temu and Shein Gird For End Of Tariff Loophole

BY LIZ YOUNG AND SHEN LU

The looming demise of a tariff exemption on inexpensive Chinese goods is causing big e-commerce players to lift prices and threatening the business models of smaller online retailers that deliver millions of products each year to U.S. consumers.

The so-called de minimis provision that exempts packages of $800 or less from duties is scheduled to end early Friday morning Eastern time for goods made in China and Hong Kong, after President Trump in early April ordered the end of the policy.

The change will leave most shipments, including those carried by FedEx or United Parcel Service, subject to the new

Amazon Braces for Trade Hit

Amazon.com posted strong quarterly earnings that weren't affected by new tariffs on Chinese imports, but the looming levies dimmed the company's outlook. **B1**

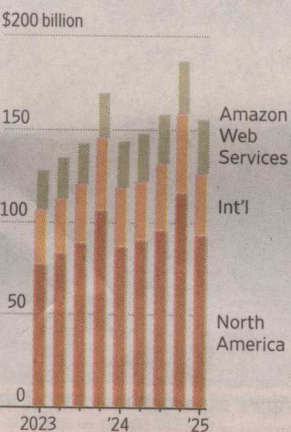
Amazon's segment revenue

Share-price and index performance

10% | 5 | 0 | -5 | -10 | -15 | -20 | -25

S&P 500

Amazon

Jan. 2025 … May

Sources: S&P Capital IQ, the company (revenue); FactSet (performance)

Apple Production Moves Out of China

BY ROLFE WINKLER

Apple said a majority of its devices shipped into the U.S. in the June quarter will originate in India and Vietnam, a move to allay investor concerns about how tariffs would crimp profits at the world's largest company.

The company also reported that sales rose in the January-to-March period, driven in part by higher iPhone demand and the release of the low-end 16e model. Overall, sales rose 5% to $95 billion, beating analyst expectations.

Net income for the period was $24.8 billion, up nearly 5% from the year-earlier quarter. IPhone sales rose 2% in the period.

The company expects a majority of iPhones sold in the U.S. in the June quarter will come from India and a majority of its other devices sold in the U.S. this quarter, including iPads, Macs, the Apple Watch and AirPods, will come from Vietnam, Apple Chief Financial Officer Kevan Parekh said in an interview.

Please turn to page A2

A Donkey Roundup Is Rocking A Southern California Community

* * *

Locals demand return of 256 burros that were taken out of state; looking for Big Red

BY JIM CARLTON

Donkey Rescue corralled 256 of

Trump Wants Used Jet As New Air Force One

President Trump is done waiting for Boeing.

Frustrated by delays on a new Air Force One, Trump has

tems to transform the luxury aircraft into a presidential jet, some of the people said.

FROM PAGE ONE

Tesla Board Mulled CEO Succession

Continued from Page One
Musk and the Board is highly confident in his ability to continue executing on the exciting growth plan ahead," Tesla Chair Robyn Denholm said in the statement posted on X.

During a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Trump thanked Musk for his government work. "You know you're invited to stay as long as you want," Trump said. "I guess he wants to get back home to his cars."

Any change at the top would mark a major moment for Tesla: Musk has run the electric-vehicle maker for nearly 20 years, though he stepped aside as board chairman in 2018. Musk has been deeply involved in all of his businesses, even those in which other executives handle day-to-day management.

The eight-person Tesla board has been looking to add an independent director, according to people familiar with the process. Some directors, including Tesla cofounder JB Straubel, have been meeting with major investors to reassure them the company is in good hands.

Musk's detour into government came at a difficult time for his biggest company. Sales of Tesla's electric cars fell in 2024, the first annual decline in more than a decade. The company slashed prices, which ate into profit margins. Its high-profile Cybertruck, derided for its strange looks, became the butt of jokes by late-night comics.

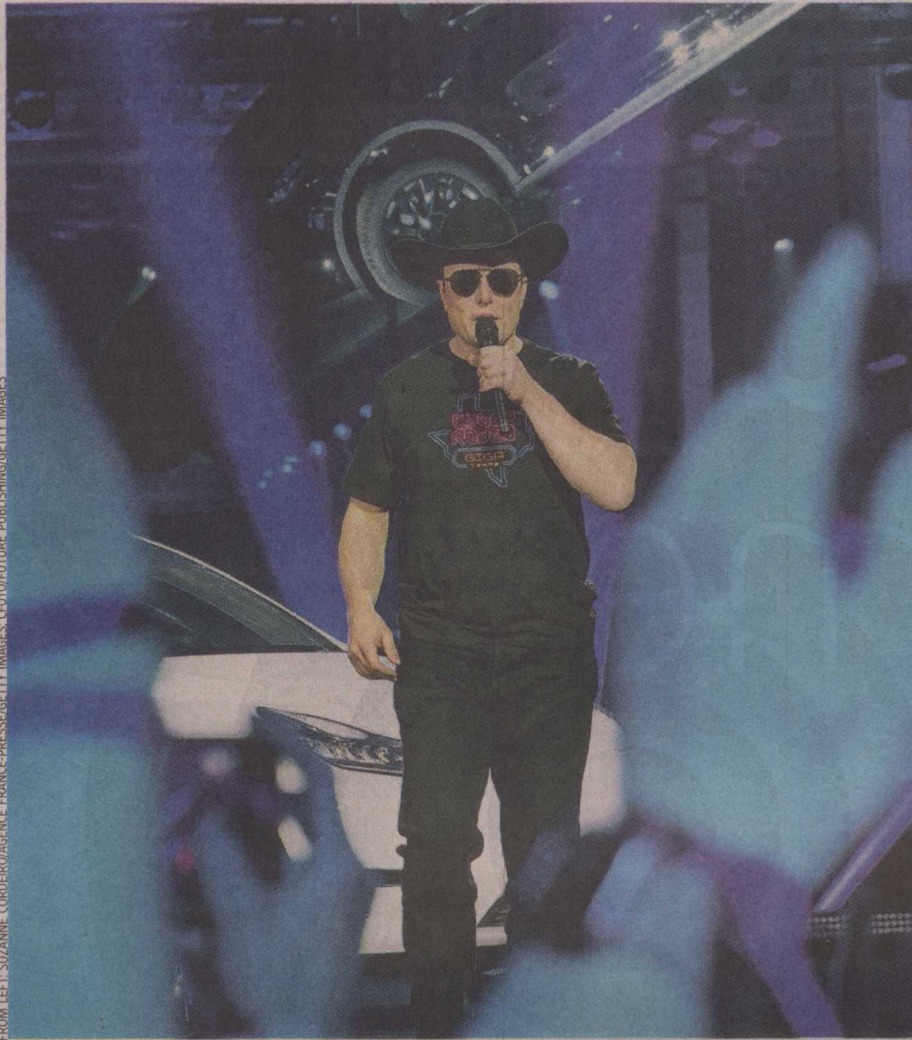
Musk's close ties to Trump tarnished Tesla's brand for some consumers. Making matters worse, the president's tariffs have complicated Tesla's business in China, one of its biggest car markets, and a U.S. supply chain that relies heavily on vendors in Mexico and Canada.

Musk's proximity to the president proved no help on that front. He told investors last week he would "continue to advocate for lower tariffs rather than higher tariffs, but that's all I can do." The decision, he said, was the president's.

After Trump's victory last year, Tesla's shares surged at first, reflecting optimism that Musk's close ties to the president would yield benefits for his businesses. Tesla's market value hit a record high of $1.5 trillion in December. Since then, it has fallen to about $900 billion.

Early last year, after some two decades of running Tesla, Musk confided to someone close to him, in late night texts, that he was frustrated to still be working nonstop at the company, especially after a Delaware judge had struck down his multibillion-dollar pay package.

Last spring, he told that person that he no longer wanted to be CEO of Tesla, but that he was worried that no one could replace him atop the company and sell the vision that Tesla isn't just an automaker, but the future of robotics and automation as well.

Musk has complained both in public and private that despite owning roughly 13% of the company, he has been working without pay for the last seven years. The Tesla board recently formed a special compensation committee to address CEO compensation.

Musk has enormous demands on his time. Tesla is only one of five businesses he oversees. At Tesla alone, more than 20 executives report directly to him, according to an internal document. Since the election, he has spent most of his time in Washington, with weekends at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida. When he met with Tesla employees and board members, he often did so remotely.

Some Tesla employees said that the first time they had heard from Musk in months was at an all-hands meeting in March, streamed to all X users, where he tried to reassure employees and persuade them not to sell their shares.

"If you read the news, it feels like Armageddon," he told them. "I can't walk past a TV without seeing a Tesla on fire," he said, referring to vandalism at Tesla showrooms and charging stations. "There are times when there are rocky moments, a little bit of stormy weather, but I'm here to tell you the future is bright and exciting. What I'm saying is—hang on to your stock."

Executive focus

Musk spent more than $250 million on Trump's re-election effort. He took the stage with Trump at rallies and even spent a chunk of time in Pennsylvania after identifying it as a state that Trump couldn't afford to lose. On election night, he was in the ballroom at Mar-a-Lago.

The next morning, Nov. 6, he flew out of Palm Beach to attend a Tesla board meeting in Austin. Soon, he was back in Mar-a-Lago sitting in on meetings with world leaders and helping to vet candidates for cabinet positions.

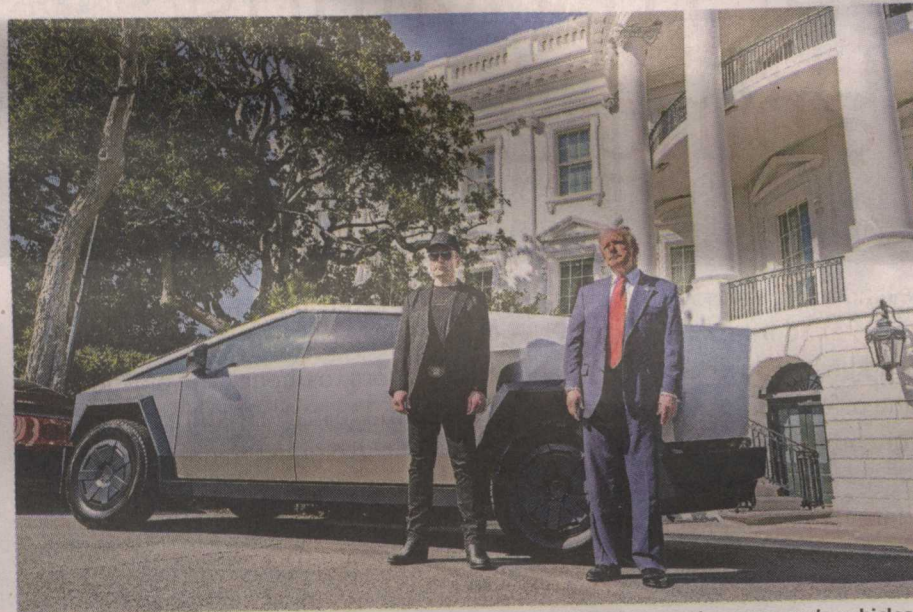
Musk was given the job of running the Department of Government Efficiency, which eventually was staffed with government outsiders that included investors and employees from his companies. His status as a "special government employee" enables him to work at the White House for 130 days each year without filing the financial-disclosure forms required for regular employees.

Some employees said they were happy at first that Musk was busy in D.C. because his tendency to micromanage at Tesla could be a distraction.

As Musk drew closer to Trump, who has criticized EV mandates and vowed to reinvigorate the oil and gas industries, some employees sought assurances from management that Musk still supported Tesla's mission to fight climate change and support sustainable-energy infrastructure.

Late last November, Tesla executive Mike Snyder tried to reassure his team that Musk's political tilt wouldn't distract him from the business. "It's obviously been a turbulent and emotional season, I acknowledge that," he said, according to a recording of the meeting reviewed by The Wall Street Journal. "I'd rather have Elon next to Trump than an enemy of Trump."

Snyder, whose team works on energy storage and solar power, told his team that Musk continued to answer texts. "People concerned that Elon is not engaged or interested, I can assure you that's not true," he said.

By early this year, it was clear to some inside the company that Musk's political foray was becoming a business liability. Tesla was losing brand appeal in markets such as California and Germany, and drivers had begun putting bumper stickers on their Teslas distancing themselves from Musk's politics. Tesla also was losing ground in China to homegrown rivals such as BYD.

Eliah Gilfenbaum, a Tesla executive in California, told his team that it was getting more challenging to hire and retain talent, according to one person who was present. He told them Tesla would be better off if Musk resigned. That was unlikely to happen, he told them, and employees needed to reconcile the boss's politics with the company's mission. He advised them to try to compartmentalize and just keep going.

After two newspapers reported on Gilfenbaum's remarks, Gilfenbaum was forced out of Tesla, the person said. Tesla hasn't commented on the matter.

Growth problem

Tesla executives have said the company is in a transition period. Its popular Model 3 car and Model Y crossover drove a first wave of growth. Now it is pivoting to artificial intelligence and robotics, heralded by new vehicles like its Cybercab, a gold two-seater sedan with no steering wheel or pedals, and by Optimus, a humanoid robot central to Musk's vision for the company. Musk has posited that robotics could transform Tesla into a $30 trillion company, many times its current valuation.

Meanwhile, though, its core EV business is faltering, and its newest vehicle, the Cybertruck, hasn't provided much of a boost. Musk pitched the Cybertruck, unveiled in 2019, as a futuristic, bulletproof alternative to old school pickups like Ford's F150. The first versions to reach customers, in late 2023, were priced around $100,000—2½ times the price Musk first announced.

The truck has faced eight recalls, including on safety hardware such as the accelerator pedal and windshield wipers. In its first full year of sales, Tesla sold just 39,000 Cybertrucks in the U.S., according to Cox Automotive estimates—a fraction of the 250,000 in annual sales Musk said was the goal.

While many investors held out hope that Tesla would release a new, low-cost model to invigorate sales in 2025, the company instead has focused on refreshing its existing lineup and lowering prices by changing out expensive parts like the material used on its seats.

In March, it unveiled a refresh of the Model Y, its best-selling car. In April, Tesla released a less expensive version of the Cybertruck, priced at $69,990.

Musk and his lieutenants have redoubled their efforts to convince investors that Tesla's long-planned autonomous vehicles are just around the corner. Tesla plans to open up its ride-hailing app to the public by the end of June, enabling customers in Austin, Texas, to take unsupervised robotaxi rides in Model Ys. That would put the company in competition with existing robotaxi services like Alphabet's Waymo and Amazon's Zoox.

In February, Tesla's finance chief Vaibhav Taneja warned some investors that Tesla would have a "rough quarter."

In recent meetings with investors, board members told them that despite Musk's government work, he was involved in Tesla meetings remotely. One board member told people that sometimes Musk wasn't as well prepared and that he needed to be briefed more about what is happening with Tesla. The board members continued to say they believed Musk's proximity to Trump and the White House would benefit the company over the long term.

Last week's dismal earnings report showed quarterly revenue had declined 9%, including a 20% drop in automotive revenue after sales fell in important markets such as California, China and Germany.

Musk told investors the blowback against Tesla stemmed from his work with DOGE. "The real reason for the protests, the actual reason, is that is those receiving the waste and fraud wish to continue receiving it," he said. "That is the real thing that's going on here, obviously."

After announcing that he would spend less time in Washington and more time at Tesla, Musk defended the company's performance and expressed optimism about its future. "We're not on the ragged edge of death," he said, "not even close."

Elon Musk, pictured at left at a celebration for a Tesla factory opening in 2022, is overseeing the company's pivot into AI and robotics. Its humanoid Optimus robot, above.

FROM LEFT: SUZANNE CORDEIRO/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES; CFOTO/FUTURE PUBLISHING/GETTY IMAGES

Tesla share price

$500, 450, 400, 350, 300, 250, 200

Musk appointed to lead DOGE

Nov. 2024 | Jan. '25

Source: FactSet

Trump appeared with Musk at the White House in March to talk up the company's vehicles

MOLLY RILEY/WHITE HOUSE/ZUMA PRESS

Roundup Rocks a Community

Continued from Page One
her mother, dubbed Big Red – ups cruel, arguing for more humane techniques like sterilization. Indeed, Peaceful Valley in 2009 was approached by the Bureau of Land Management about helping to thin a herd in Reche Canyon that then numbered about 250 burros, said executive director Mark Meyers.

"But the Facebook loonies got involved and got it ting themselves at risk, but also residents and visitors," said Josh Dugas, county public health director.

Meyers, whose roundups elsewhere have often drawn fire, said he has gotten death threats before and warned the county "it's gonna get ugly, be prepared."

The operation began in mid-December, catching many petition to yank the burro contract. Brandi Augerstein, 42, said the burro estimates used by the county are inflated and that they weren't causing nearly the problem officials claimed.

"I don't believe everything they say is truthful," Augerstein said at her family's small ranch, where she added burros sometimes hold "poop orphans. Dorre Yamashiro, 54, said she and her daughter would often run into Big Red and Tiny Red – so named for their unusual reddish color – while trail riding.

"This baby would approach us, momma was always behind her," Yamashiro said. "One day my kid was riding after the roundup and baby was by herself. Baby went for 10 days with no momma to be locked gate, she said, as both sides called police.

Police questioned the visitors but let them go. Meyers said they happened to get stuck behind a gate where his crews were finishing some work. "They called us Texas thugs," he said.

The county signed a new deal for DonkeyLand to embark on a castration program and relocate any problem don-

Los Angeles Times

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Photographs by CARLIN STIEHL Los Angeles Times

IN PASADENA, Brenda Sharpe lives with her three younger children in Hotel Le Reve. It's the sixth place they've lived since the Eaton fire damaged their home in Altadena, where Sharpe once cleaned houses.

Looking for a place to land

FEMA often directly leases apartments for disaster survivors. Why didn't that happen after the L.A. County wildfires?

By Liam Dillon

Since her Altadena rental home burned down in January's Eaton fire, Tamara Johnson has crisscrossed Southern California looking for a place to live. She started in San Bernardino, where she stayed with a friend, and continued to Oceanside, where an Airbnb voucher let her remain a week.

She's driven from Long Beach to Azusa searching for apartments, spending her days scanning listings for those that would accept her Federal Emergency Management Agency housing assistance and calling 211 for help. Most nights, she's slept in her van. The worst came when a truck smashed into the back of her vehicle one morning as she was pulling into a fast-food parking lot. Johnson got a rental car and then slept in that.

"I'm going through all this," said Johnson, 62. "And I just came through a disaster."

With her struggles, Johnson was surprised to learn that there could have been another path to long-term housing. After major wildfires, floods, hurricanes,

[See FEMA, A9]

SHARPE'S parents' house was destroyed in the blaze, and her grandmother, who had to be carried to safety by firefighters, has since passed away.

State law aims for equity in student discipline. Trump says it's illegal

Executive order could challenge the ending of suspension rules that hurt Black and Latino students.

By Daniel Miller

Violating a school dress code. Using a cellphone in class. Mouthing off at a teacher.

There was a time when that kind of behavior, called "willfully defiant" conduct, would get a California public school student suspended.

But over the last decade, a sea change in state discipline policy — one born in part out of an understanding that such suspensions disproportionately affect Black, Latino and Indigenous students — largely outlawed that kind of punishment.

Instead, schools were advised to turn to practices including conflict resolution and counseling.

Now, though, an executive order signed by President Trump could presage legal challenges of pioneering California laws that overhauled school discipline by banning willful defiance suspensions for K-12 students.

In his April 23 order, Trump directed the Education Department to root out school discipline frameworks based on "discriminatory equity ideology" and issue new "commonsense" practices in the nation's K-12 schools, while criticizing previous guidance from Democratic administrations. President Obama had directed schools to avoid enacting discipline policies that disproportionately punished underrepresented student groups — a stance later supported by President Biden.

Trump has said such rules amount to racial discrimination because, his order stated, the Obama-era directive "effectively required schools to discriminate on the basis of race by imposing discipline based on racial characteristics, rather than on objective behavior alone."

The executive order has sown confusion among educators and attorneys, who wonder about its potential impact on California — with some saying they see it as a corollary to the Trump administration's wide-scale attack on diversity, equity and inclusion programs.

"Shock and awe is the goal here — to shake people up and disrupt," said Pedro A. Noguera, dean of USC's Rossier School of Education. "But ... where's the guidance? Where's the desire to produce evidence that what they are doing will be helpful to children? None

[See Discipline, A6]

Justices may allow taxpayer-funded church-run schools

Case underscores shift in religion law under court's conservative majority and could change public schools.

By David G. Savage

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court's conservative majority appeared poised Wednesday to rule that church-run schools have a right to operate as public-funded charters.

If so, the decision could transform K-12 education and public schooling nationwide.

Since the early 1990s, charter schools have taken hold in California and 46 other states as a popular public-funded option for parents and their children. They enroll 3.5 million children nationwide.

The Golden State is home to 1,300 charter schools serving nearly 630,000 students, about 11% of those attending kindergarten through 12th grade, according to the California School Boards Assn.

down church-run schools as tax-funded charters.

"They are saying don't exclude us because of our religion," said Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh.

Washington attorney Gregory Garre said it would be "remarkable" for the court to overrule Congress and the laws of 47 states and to instead require them to fund church-spon-

[See Justices, A6]

TIMES INVESTIGATION

LAFD union leader racked up overtime pay

By Alene Tchekmedyian and Paul Pringle

Long before the devastating fire in Pacific Palisades, leaders of the Los Angeles Fire Department's labor union complained that the agency did not have enough money to keep the city safe.

"It's a damn shame, and excuse my language, that it took this incident, the Pacific Palisades, to finally bring attention to our grossly understaffed, underfunded Fire Department," Freddy Escobar, president of the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City, said at a city Fire Commission meeting in February.

Union leaders, along with top LAFD commanders, said budget cuts had resulted in a backlog of engines needing repairs and not enough mechanics to fix them. But even as they denounced those reductions, the union leaders secured four years of pay raises for the city's 3,300 firefighters through negotiations with Mayor Karen Bass. And firefighters often make much more than their base pay, with about 30% of the LAFD's payroll costs going to overtime.

That includes Escobar and other top union officers, who have for years been padding their paychecks with overtime while also collecting a five- to six-figure union stipend, a Times investigation found.

Escobar made about $540,000 in 2022, the most recent year for which records of both his city and union earnings are available. He more than doubled his base salary of $184,034 with overtime payouts that year,

[See LAFD, A7]

Where are mass deportations?
Deportees from U.S. have yet to materialize in Mexico, which takes migrants from third countries. WORLD, A3

Backlog is cited in sex abuse case
Allegations against a youth soccer coach in 2024 languished until a boy was killed this year. CALIFORNIA, B1

Lakers coverage available online
For full coverage of Game 5 against the

Huge quake could sink swath of state, study says

Some areas might drop more than 6 feet, increasing the risk of flooding

By Rong-Gong Lin II

A long-feared monster earthquake off California, Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, concluded that in an earthquake scenario with the

Los Angeles Times

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Could the state take over juvenile halls?

Atty. Gen. Bonta considers stripping county control of L.A.'s chaotic facilities amid calls for reform.

By James Queally

It should have been a normal day at school, or as normal as a classroom setting is in juvenile detention.

But lessons at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall were interrupted on a Friday in early April when three teenagers suffered what county officials later confirmed were drug overdoses. One collapsed in front of his classmates and two others passed out in their rooms, according to multiple sources who requested anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation.

The L.A. County Probation Department, which oversees Los Padrinos, said three youths were hospitalized on April 10 because of overdoses from an unspecified drug. The day before, the sources familiar with the investigation said, probation officers found a large quantity of Xanax inside the Downey facility, where most of the approximately 270 detainees are 18 or younger.

The emergency was the latest in a years-long series of fiascoes within L.A. County's juvenile halls — all of which have unfolded under the watchful eye of the California attorney general's office.

Four years after the state's Department of Justice entered into a settlement to improve conditions in L.A. County's juvenile halls, frustrations are hitting a boiling point. The Probation Department has shown no signs of progress, prompting calls for Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta to intervene.

Bonta declined an interview request but said in a written statement to The Times that the Probation Department is headed toward the "end of the line."

Bonta said he is preparing "to take steps" to ask a court to place the Probation Department in receivership, essentially wresting control of the agency from the leaders who have failed to implement reforms.

"The current situation at Los Angeles County juvenile halls — and particularly at Los Padrinos — is unacceptable," Bonta said. "Los Angeles County continues to fail to implement the court-ordered reforms necessary to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the kids under their care."

Already shut down once, Los Padrinos was reopened

[See Juvenile halls, A8]

CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

ANIMAL SHELTERS SPARED

L.A. Mayor Karen Bass says the city's shelters will avoid closures once $5 million that was set aside in the budget is moved to Animal Services. Above, a dog at a city shelter in South L.A. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

L.A. test program aims to halt homelessness before it starts

By Doug Smith

When the unknown number popped up on her phone, Jocelyn Escanuela was in the checkout line at Walmart. She still can't explain why she picked up and then listened to a cold-caller's pitch that sounded a lot like a scam.

She had been selected to receive a grant of $6,000, the caller told her. And she would have a personal assistant to help her get her through her "crisis."

How did they even know she was in a crisis?

It turned out the caller was legitimate. She was from the Homelessness Prevention Unit, an experimental Los Angeles County program that is testing whether it is feasible to stop homelessness before it starts — one person at a time — by picking them out of mountains of data.

Escanuela's crisis was detected not by a person but a predictive statistical model that was developed to solve a conundrum that has made homelessness prevention a tantalizing but underused strategy.

Despite sound evidence that services such as eviction defense and financial assistance can prevent peo-

[See Trial, A5]

COLUMN ONE

Like, subscribe and pray along

Formerly Hollywood hopefuls, the hosts of 'Girls Gone Bible' have gained a young, faithful following online

By Deborah Netburn

Angela Halili was having a rough day. But that did not keep the former actor from arriving to her weekly meeting with her best friend, Arielle Reitsma, also a former actor and model, in a West Hollywood recording studio.

Nearly every week for the past two years, the two have convened there to share heart-to-hearts that are at the core of "Girls Gone Bible," an evangelical podcast with millions of listeners. And this week, Halili's personal struggles were in focus.

"You want to talk about your heart a little bit?" Reitsma asked Halili. Halili nodded.

"It's just like, growth is so uncomfortable," she said, holding back tears. "Transition is so uncomfortable. And someone stole my Erewhon delivery today."

Reitsma and Halili, both honey blonds with impeccable makeup,

[See 'Girls,' A12]

JULIANA YAMADA Los Angeles Times

ANGELA HALILI, left, and Arielle Reitsma host the popular evangelical podcast "Girls Gone Bible" out of a West Hollywood studio.

Face[illegible] looms [illegible] rules for cleaner vehicles

California's authority to enforce its own, stricter standards is targeted in a series of GOP-led House votes.

By Michael Wilner

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House took a trio of votes this week targeting California's decades-old authority to enforce its own environmental standards, setting the stage for a faceoff in the Senate, where Democrats say GOP leaders would have to defy long-standing protocol to get the measures passed.

The votes called into question California's waiver from the Clean Air Act of 1970, an authority that has allowed the state to set stricter pollution guidelines and empowered its leaders to set an alternative standard on car emissions to those of the federal government.

On Thursday, Republicans in the House, joined by a handful of Democrats, voted to prohibit California from banning the sale of new gasoline-only cars by 2035. The day before, the House voted along similar lines to end California's ability to set emissions standards for heavy-duty trucks and to combat smog levels in the state.

For decades, automakers have bent their car production lines to meet California mileage standards, in part due to the size of the California market and in part because the industry has found it a safer bet — with changes in power so common in Washington — to be more stringent on fuel efficiency standards than the alternative. Today, more than a dozen states follow California's standards, including New York, Colorado, Massachusetts, Washington and Oregon.

But since President Trump took office, the Environmental Protection Agency has questioned whether that authority amounts to a technical "rule" that allows for the Senate to disapprove of the waiver with a simple majority vote, under the Congressional Review Act.

Trump campaigned on a promise to reverse government programs promoting the sale of electric vehicles — often derided by critics as "EV mandates" — advocated by then-President Biden and the California government, which aims to phase out the sale of new gasoline-only vehicles by 2035 with its latest program, Advanced Clean Cars II.

Over the last two

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